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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/739,840 | SAITOU, NOBUHIRO | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Kimbinh T. Nguyen | 2671 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 12/20/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,6-16.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to amendment filed 12/20/05.
2. Claims 1-3, 6-16 are pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1, the prior art does not teach a graphic editing device, comprising:
a display unit including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series via lines; a storage unit, coupled to said display unit, to store a first table with position information that indicates a position of each object displayed on said display unit, a second table with line information that identifies the lines connecting the first, second and third objects, and a third table with preceding information that identifies an object preceding each object; and an editor, coupled to said display unit and said storage unit, to delete the second object and to connect the first and third objects according to contents of the first, second and third tables, when the second object is selected, said editor adjusting a position of at least one of the first and third objects on said display unit to adjust a distance between the first and third objects, if the distance between the first and third objects after the second object is deleted is larger than a predetermined threshold.

Claim 6, the prior art does not teach a display unit displaying a graphic including a plurality of first objects, a second object connected to the plurality of first objects and a plurality of third objects connected to the second object; and an editor deleting the

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second object and separately connecting each of the plurality of first objects and each of the plurality of third objects automatically when the second object is selected.

Claims 7, 14 and 16, the prior art does not teach a display unit displaying a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series; and an editor automatically deleting the second object and connecting the first and third

objects a when the second object is selected and dragged from the graphic to a predetermined area positioned away from the-graphic to thereby indicate that the selected and dragged second object is to be deleted from the graphic.

Claim 8, the prior art does not teach a display unit displaying a graphic including a first object, a second object and a third object that are connected in series; and an editor automatically deleting the second object and connecting the first and third objects. when the second object is selected and dragged to a specific relative position from a position of the graphic to thereby indicate that the selected and dragged second object is to be deleted from the graphic.

Claims 11, 13 and 15, the prior art does not teach deleting the second object and connecting the first and third objects according to contents of the first, second and third tables, when the second object is selected, said editor adjusting a position of at least one of the first and third objects on said display unit to adjust the distance between the first and third objects, if the distance between the first and third objects after the second object is deleted is larger than a predetermined threshold.

Claim 12, the prior art does not teach automatically deleting the second object and connecting the first and third objects when the second object is selected and dragged to a predetermined area positioned away from the connected first, second and third objects to thereby indicate that the selected and dragged second object is to be deleted and no longer directly connected to the first and third objects or indirectly connected to the first and third objects through other objects.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimbinh T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-7644. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

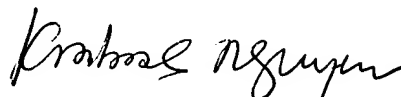
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi can be reached at (571) 272-7664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

February 28, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimbinh T. Nguyen".

KIMBINH T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER